NEWS

R E L E A S E

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HUDGENS REMINDS CONSUMERS
ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF FLOOD INSURANCE

Atlanta – With most of metro Atlanta under a flood watch Wednesday, Insurance Commissioner Ralph T. Hudgens wants to remind Georgians that a flood policy can be a valuable addition to standard homeowners' coverage.

"Purchasing flood insurance is an important consideration for Georgia consumers, even if you think a flood is unlikely in your area," Hudgens said. "Twenty-five percent of flood claims occur in areas considered medium or low-risk for floods."

Hudgens said flood coverage is federally backed by the National Flood Insurance Program. Flood insurance is available for up to $250,000 for damage to your home. A standard flood policy will cover the basic structure as well as the furnace, water heater, air conditioner, floor surfaces (carpeting and tile) and debris clean up.

For an additional premium, you also may buy flood coverage for up to $100,000 damage to the contents of your home. Coverage is available up to $500,000 for non-residential buildings and their contents.

You can buy NFIP flood insurance directly from your property and casualty insurance agent or insurance company if your community participates in the NFIP. Your insurance agent or insurance company can confirm whether flood insurance is available to you and what it would cost. You can buy flood insurance for your home or business regardless of whether the property is in or out of a floodplain, as long as the property is located in a participating community.

It is very important to plan ahead; a flood insurance policy will not go into effect until 30 days after you buy the policy. You can obtain more information about flood insurance at http://www.floodsmart.gov.

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